

# The CAPITOL HILL MONITOR

June 1993

#### HOWARD COUNTY FIRE/POLICE COMMUNI-CATIONS TOUR SCHEDULED FOR SATURDAY, JUNE 19

Gene Lichtman, who arranged an enjoyable tour of the DCFD Communications Center for us, invites us to tour Howard County's fire and police communications 9-1-1 center. The tour is presently scheduled for Saturday, June 19 at 1 p.m. Howard County's 9-1-1 center is at 3430 Court House Drive in Ellicott City - just a few minutes from Washington or Baltimore. If you plan to attend, please call Gene (301-649-1321) for directions and to confirm the exact meeting location and time. See additional story on page 2.

#### **US MARSHALS SERVICE**

by Bill Hardman

One of the often overlooked agencies of the Department of Justice is the US Marshals Service (USMS). However, it is more well known than many consciously realize, particularly to aficionados of western movies and TV shows. Marshal (one "L" please) Dillon of "Gunsmoke," and his contemporaries were Deputy US Marshals. Their non-fictional descendants of the modern Marshals Service fulfill several new functions, as well as continuing to perform the functions made famous by their fictional forebears, albeit in a more modern setting.

The USMS is the oldest federal law enforcement agency, having been established in 1789. In many ways, the USMS is the federal government's sheriff. The USMS is responsible for the security of all federal judicial offices, including the personal security of the judges and magistrates. Additionally, the USMS maintains custody of, and transports the accused until they are sentenced (if guilty) and turned over to the Bureau of Prisons. They also execute court orders and

warrants. Another function of the USMS is the apprehension of federal fugitives and it operates the Federal Witness Protection Program.

The Service operates the Justice Department's National Asset Seizure and Forfeiture Program. It also maintains a specially trained and equipped force capable of responding to civil disturbances, terrorist incidents, and similar situations. If you watch the newsreels from the 1960's, you will see that it was the USMS that escorted students into Little Rock High School and the University of Mississippi, for example. When Army troops were deployed during civil disturbances, they were deployed in support of the USMS.

Each USMS office is identical in area of responsibility to one of the 94 District Courts which it serves. Bases identify either by location, or more regularly, the name of the district, e.g., "Eastern Virginia." The subdivisions of the district often identify by location name, e.g. "Alexandria." While almost all of the District Courts are identified in this manner, there is one exception in the Washington area, the DC Superior Court.

In addition to their "normal" functions, deputy marshals assigned to the DC Superior Court serve and execute court ordered evictions. The Eastern Virginia District is located in Alexandria and covers almost the entire eastern half of the state (the western district is in Roanoke). The Maryland District is located in Baltimore.

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Units identify in two ways. Either with a prefix indicating the District (e.g., DC, Maryland) followed by two digits (e.g., DC30) or a series of four numbers (3630). In this case DC30 and 3630 are the same unit. In the DC area, bases also identify by number: 100 is the USMS HQ in Arlington (across from the Pentagon); 200 is the DC District Court; 300 is the DC Superior Court; 400 is VIP escort and protection; and 500 is prisoner escort operations. For the latter, federal prisoners are detained in Quantico and in facilities that are integral to the DC jail complex.

The USMS employs a system of "control" repeaters rather than the more traditional system. For the monitor, this means the base, rather than mobiles will be heard on the "input" frequency. Incidentally, this is another of those complex nationwide systems like the US Customs Service and the Immigration and Naturalization Service. No CTCSS tones have been confirmed in use. The channel numbering varies slightly from office to office in order to accommodate different radios and local police frequencies. The most commonly used frequencies in the Washington area are as follows:

163.2000 r/s All District Court Operations

163.8125 s/s Talkaround

162.8750 r/s VIP Security Operations

162.7125 r/s VIP Security Operations

162.7875 r/s Superior Court Operations

170.8750 s/s Tactical Use (Rare)

170.9250 s/s Tactical Use

170.7500 s/s Tactical Use

411.1000 s/s DC District Court Bailiffs (Low Power)

453.5500 r P-MARS

Additionally, all USMS radios have the capability of operating on the frequencies of the US Bureau of Prisons. Most units have the capability of operating on selected local police frequencies as well as on the OCDETF frequencies.



Here is some Howard County radio information to help get you prepared for the tour (see page 1). Both Howard County fire and police departments have undergone several changes to their channel configurations in recent years which are reflected in the below listings.

#### HOWARD COUNTY PUBLIC SAFETY

by Alan Henney

County Seat: Ellicott City

County Name: John Eager Howard (1752-1827);

Revolutionary officer, Maryland governor and statesman

Area: 254 square miles

Population: 187,328 (1990 Census)

Principal towns: Columbia, Clarksville, Elkridge, Ellicott

City, Savage, West Friendship.

#### FIRE

154.2500 r F1: Dispatch & Operations (153.77 input)

154.2200 s F2: Fireground & Alternate 154.1750 s F3: Fireground & Alternate

154.2800 s F4: FMARS 2 (METRO Mutual Aid)

155.1150 r F5: Inter-Agency Coordination (156.015 input)

154.2950 s FMARS 1 (METRO Base Mutual Aid)

154.2650 s FMARS 3 (MCP Coordination)

With the exception of the FMARS frequencies, fire CTCSS tones are 103.5 Hz. The Maryland Institute for EMS Systems (MIEMSS) provides EMS communication support for Howard



County on Med channels 4, 8, 9 and 10 (463.075, 463.175, 462.95 and 462.975).

#### POLICE

159.0900 r F1: Adam and Baker Sectors (154.65 input)

155.5950 r F2: Alternate & Tactical (154.845 input)

155.3700 s F3: Alternate & Tactical

155,4750 s F4: NLEEF

155.1150 r F5: Charlie and David Sectors (156.015 input)

155.8200 r F6: Gov't 3 (158.895 input)

460.0500 s P-MARS Mutual Aid

Police CTCSS frequencies are 103.5 Hz, except for 155.475 (none) and 460.05 (114.8 Hz). During the midnight shift (Shift 3), V and X sectors replace the A and B sectors (on Channel 1) and the W sector replaces the C and D sectors (on Channel 5). 155.115, a countywide coordination channel, is temporarily being used as a police dispatch channel. Howard County Police make use of the three government channels (listed below) when other county government radio users leave the airwaves.

#### SHERIFF

039.1000 s MSP Statewide (F1)

044.7400 s MSP Civil Defense Net/Helicopters (110.9 Hz)

155.9250 s Government 2 (103.5 Hz)

The two MSP licensed frequencies are used on behalf of the County Sheriff by the Howard County ECC for coordination with the MSP. 155.925 is also used by the Public Works' Wastewater Treatment Plant and by the Department of Corrections.

#### OTHER COUNTY AGENCIES

37.2600 s Formerly Used By Recreation & Parks and Board of Education

155.1150 r Inter-Agency Coordination: Police, Fire, Public Works & Exec Staff (156.015 input)

151.1150 r Gov't 1: Highways, Inspections & Facilities (156.06 input)

155.9250 s Gov't 2: Corrections, Sheriff, Wastewater 155.8200 r Gov't 3: Animal Ctrl, Recreation & Parks, Utilities (158.895 input)

496.5125 r Howard Community College (Columbia)

CTCSS tones for all VHF high-band frequencies are 103.5 Hz. Any local government channel is available to the county fire and police units after normal working hours.

FCC OUTLAWS SCANNERS WITH CELLULAR COVERAGE

On April 19, 1993, the FCC adopted the proposal which amends parts 2 and 15 to prohibit the manufacture and importation of radio scanners capable of receiving cellular telephone frequencies. "The rules being adopted," says the docket, "are intended to increase the privacy protection of cellular telephone users without unduly restricting legitimate uses of scanners."

"Some 46 parties," the docket says, filed comments on the original notice and six parties filed reply comments. "A large number of commenters, presumably most of them scanner enthusiasts," the FCC says, "opposed adoption of any rules that would restrict the tuning capabilities of scanners." Frank Carson, George DuBois, EEB and Jeffrey Krauss were among those listed who opposed the proposal. "Manufacturers of scanners and cellular service providers in general support the Commission's proposed changes," the Commission noted.

Although many commenters requested the FCC decline to enact the proposed rules, the FCC said "enactment of such rules is required by the TDDRA [Telephone Disclosure and Dispute Resolution Act]. Several commenters request that the FCC also prohibit scanners from being able to receive signals from other similar radio services, such as the Personal

Communications Service and the Specialized Mobile Radio Service. But, the FCC said, "Such action goes beyond the requirements of the TDDRA and, as such, is beyond the scope of this proceeding."

"It is very important," the FCC said, "that we [the FCC] review the designs of scanner and frequency converter equipment before granting equipment authorizations because, should we [the FCC] authorize a model that is later found to be easily modified, it would be very difficult and costly for the grantee to recall the units that had already been sold." As a result, the FCC said it will require applicants to provide details "describing why their devices cannot be easily modified."

As of April 26, 1993, the FCC will reject all equipment authorizations for scanners and converters which do not comply with the "cellular band." Effective April 26, 1994, it will be illegal to manufacture or import such scanning receivers into the United States. The Commission, however, did note that "The proposed rules will allow existing authorized scanners and frequency converters that can receive cellular frequencies to be sold and used indefinitely, provided they are manufactured and imported prior to April 26, 1994."

The FCC noted that "legitimate users" have a need for "cellular scanners." Several companies, including Harris, GTE, EEB, NYNEX, McCaw, CTIA and Uniden requested the FCC to clarify its "rules to specifically exempt scanners and converters that are marketed exclusively to law enforcement agencies and cellular system operators from the technical standards adopted in this proceeding." The FCC said it agrees and adopted an exemption to the rules "for devices intended to be marketed to law enforcement agencies and cellular system operators."

For further information on this proceeding, contact David Wilson (202-653-8138) and ask for a copy of ET Docket No. 93-1 (FCC 93-201).

**BITS & PIECES** 

#### PROTESTERS USE TRUNKED SYSTEM USED BY IN-AUGURAL COMMITTEE

Organizers of the recent gay/lesbian-rights protest leased several radio systems to coordinate their activities. The most surprising find was to discover protest organizers communicating on the identical 20-channel 900 MHz trunked system used by Presidential Inaugural Committee personnel earlier this year. An entire range of "protest support personnel," ranging from organizer-supported EMS to security, operated on the trunked system.

The trunked system supposedly belongs to Motorola, who loaned equipment to the Presidential Inaugural Committee. However, the first 10 channels are licensed to

Anita Kuskey of Santa Barbara (WNKM906) and Dryer Enterprises of Annapolis (WNKM911) is licensee of the remaining 10 channels. Surprisingly, the base station identifier, which identifies the trunked system in Morse code on 935.5125, identifies using the call signs for both systems.

This is an important trunked system as it will likely be used for future special events in the Washington area.

Anita Kuskey of Santa Barbara (WNKM906)

935.5125 935.5250 935.5375 935.5500 935.5625

935.5750 935.5875 935.6000 935.6125 935.6250

Dryer Enterprises of Annapolis (WNKM911)

936.7625 936.7750 936.7875 936.8000 936.8125

936.8250 936.8375 936.8500 936.8625 936.8750

In addition, organizers used two conventional repeater frequencies: 464.175 [107.2 Hz] and 464.875 [192.8 Hz] which was used by caterers and vendors. Public safety frequencies used during the protests included 158.79 (MPD ID), 165.6875 (USSS WFO), 166.725 (USPP), 460.275 (MPD SOD), 460.425 (MPD Command Channel) and 852.6875 (DC EMS).

#### F.L. ANDERSON'S LATEST FREQUENCY LISTING

Many thanks to our friends at FL Anderson, Baltimore's well-known fire protection equipment company, who gave us permission to print the current copy of their frequency listing. FL Anderson no longer sells scanners, but still offers a full line of fire department equipment and accessories.

## NO MORE MICROFICHE MACHINES FOR SCANNER ENTHUSIASTS

Grove Enterprises was one of the first companies to offer parts of the FCC frequency database on disk to scanner users. Now Norfolk's Ocean View Communications, OVC, takes this a step further by providing the FCC database on CD-ROM. OVC intends to target both hobby and commercial users with various CDs. OVC's hobby CD includes public safety, private, industrial, aviation and maritime radio services. The hobby CD is divided into three regional \$130 disks covering the entire country. These regional disks, however, exclude the 470-512 MHz and 800-900 MHz bands, which sell for an additional \$66 each. Call or fax OVC (804-587-8251) for details.

Our appreciation to Joe Gallagher for bringing OVC to our attention. Joe also notes that the Bearcat Radio Club sells frequency dumps. Call 1-800-423-1331 to find out more.

#### PLANNING A TRIP TO ANNAPOLIS THIS SUMMER?

R. Crain sends us a list of frequencies of special interest in the Annapolis area.

**Annapolis City** 

(Annapolis PD now operates on the county trunk)

159.2100 F1 Annapolis Parking Enforcement 156.2100 F2 Annapolis Parking Enforcement 158.8350 Annapolis City Services

#### **Anne Arundel County**

154.0100 F1 Fire Dispatch (from trunked system) 154.3400 F2 Fire Alternate (trunk system patch)

154.2800 FMARS

856.3625 Trunked System (voice)

856.3875 Trunked System (voice)

857.3625 Trunked System (voice)

857.3875 Trunked System (voice)

858.3625 Trunked System (voice)

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859.3875 Trunked System (voice)

860.3625 Trunked System (voice)

860.3875 Trunked System (voice)

#### Maryland State

039.0400 F10 MSP Glen Burnie, Barrack P 039.1000 F1 MSP Statewide 039.1400 F5 MSP Annapolis, Barrack J 039.2200 DNR MNRP Marine Police 039.3200 F6 MSP Centreville, Barrack S 039.5200 F9 MSP Prince Frederick, Barrack U 044.7400 MSP/SysCom Med-evac Helicopters 047.2600 F2 SHA District 5 155.7750 State House Ops 453.5750 Bay/Lane Bridge Police



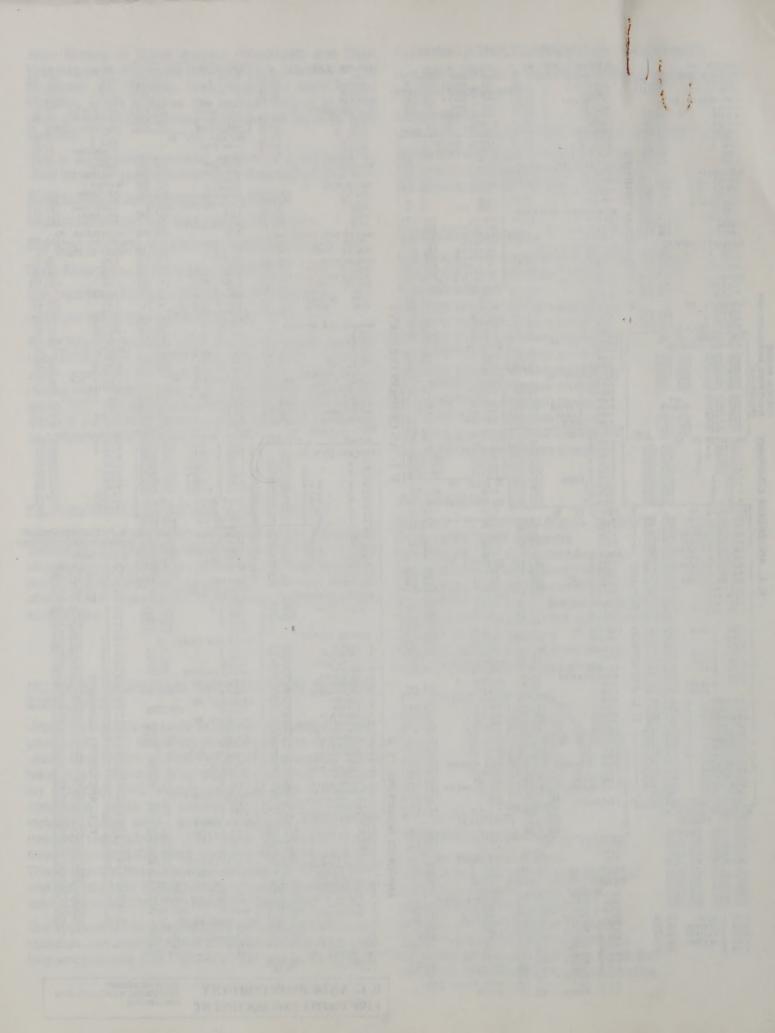
#### **US Coast Guard and Pilots**

156.5500 11 Maryland Pilots 157.0500 21A USCG Station Annapolis 157.0750 81A Marine Safety Office 157.1000 22A USCG Liaison 157.1500 23A USCG Group Baltimore 157.1750 83A USCG Station Curtis Bay 162.1250 LANT 30 USCG Station Curtis Bay 164.5500 LANT 40 USCG Station Annapolis

MOBILE

BALTIMORE, MARYLAND 21230 (301) 539-5123

FIRE PROTECTION EQUIPMENT





#### **US Navy**

121.9500 Helicopters

138.2750

139.5500

140.0300

140.0500

140.0750 Helicopters

140.2750 Intelligence (not at USNA)

140.4750

140.6500

140.7800

148.0500

148.4250 USNA Fire (Severn River Naval Cmd FD F1)

148.9500 Sea Link Security "NATO"

149,0000 USNA Police

149.0500 USNA Police

149.3750 Transmitter Facility

149.4000 Golf Course

156.6000 12 Annapolis Navy Station Port Control

157.1250 82A USNA Robert Crown Sailing Center

163.1000

168.3500

277.8000 YP Boats (Channel 11)

285.0000 YP Boats (Channel 1)

304.2000 YP Boats (Channel 2)

342.8000 YP Boats (Channel 7)

343.0000 YP Boats (Channel 12)

345.6000 YP Boats (Channel 3)

350,6000 YP Boats (Channel 8)

357.7000 YP Boats (Channel 9)

361.2000 YP Boats (Channel 4)

384.2000 YP Boats (Channel 5)

385.0000 YP Boats (Channel 6)

386.8000 YP Boats (Channel 10)

Editor's Note: The Severn River Naval Command provides "base services", such as police, fire, and building and grounds maintenance for the three adjacent major naval facilities located at Annapolis - The US Naval Academy, the Naval Communications Station, and the Naval Ship Research & Development Center. The performance of the Blue Angels at the Academy is doubtful, at best, as a result of the alleged involvement of some of its personnel in the "Tailhook" affair. The Annapolis Office of the Naval Investigative Service can be heard on 140.075 and 140.775.

#### CHANGES AT THE NATIONAL ZOO

We made several interesting observations during a recent visit to the Smithsonian Institution's National Zoological Park. The zoo's Audio Tour transmits

on 49.77, 49.83, 49.845, 49.86 and 49.89 to the hand-held receivers rented by zoo visitors. Zoo staff now carry UHF Motorola portable radios. Zoo parking attendants use VHF low-band Motorola MT1000s, which have huge 15 inch antennas. I spent several hours searching for the staff and parking attendants frequencies without success. Can anyone help? Zoo police continue to use 169.725.



Please address all correspondence to Alan. We encourage readers to submit material and to write articles which relate to the hobby. Additionally, we welcome frequency and visitor requests, but kindly include a SASE.

#### Alan Henney

6912 Prince George's Avenue Takoma Park, MD 20912-5414 301-270-2531 (voice)/301-270-5774 (fax)

#### **Newsletter Staff:**

Alan Henney, General Editor and Acting Treasurer Willard Hardman, Executive Editor Mike Peyton and Dave Clark, Distribution Brent Baker, NewsScan Editor Ken Fowler, Amateur Radio Net Coordinator

The <u>Capitol Hill Monitor</u> is the non-profit monthly newsletter of the Capitol Hill Monitors. The newsletter keeps scanner enthusiasts abreast of local meetings, frequency profiles and other topics of interest. Dues (which includes 12 issues) are \$8. Kindly <u>make checks payable to Alan Henney</u>.

#### **Meeting Coordinators:**

Mike Peyton, Maryland Coordinator (703-902-6241) Ken Fowler, Virginia Coordinator (703-385-2165)

#### Capitol Hill Monitor's Scanner/Shortwave Net:

Listen for the CHM net, hosted by Ken Fowler, at 7:30 p.m. on the first and third Monday of each month on 146.91 MHz.

#### Frequency Forum Computer Bulletin Board:

We encourage computer users to log onto Jack Anderson's Frequency Forum computer BBS at 703-207-9622 (8-N-1). Frequency Forum is the official electronic gathering place for readers of the <u>Capitol Hill Monitor!</u>

Capitol Hill Monitors
c/o Alan Henney
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